(d) what were the considerations and objectives under which those members were selected;

(e) what is the term of reference of the committee alongwith the details of guidelines given to the committee;

(f) whether any criteria for identification of drugs have been provided to the committee; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The names of the Members of the Committee as partially modified on 2nd March, 1987 are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Starred Question 169 supra]. They have been included in the Committee on the basis of their expertise and contribution in the field of Industrial Costs and Prices, Pharmacology, Food and Drug Administration and Medicines.

(e) to (g) Government has announced measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry in the country, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. In persuance thereof the Committee has been constituted to identify drugs to be included in Category II.

**Unsatisfactory programme of biogas plants**

971. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of biogas plants installed in various States are not functioning and huge quantity of financial assistance provided for them has been wasted;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what percentage of biogas plants installed so far are not functioning and what was the approximate financial subsidy provided for them by the Union and State Governments respectively;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to repair these biogas plants which are not functioning; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government to minimise the percentage of failure in biogas plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Evaluation survey study conducted by five independent agencies indicate that on an average about 15 percent of plants installed were non-functional at a given time. Installation of family based biogas plants is highly decentralised programme. A small percentage of biogas plants remain non-functional at a given time.

The amount of Central subsidy varies according to the capacity of the plants and category of beneficiaries; functionality of biogas plants depends upon many factors which *inter-alia* include structural defects, simple operational problems and external factors like drought, flood, litigation, etc. Besides, some State Governments are also providing additional subsidy. Therefore, it may not be feasible to indicate the subsidy provided for setting up of plants which are non-functional at any given time.

(d) Government has taken various steps to revive non-functional plants *viz.* provision of grants upto Rs. 500 per defective plant for repair of structural defects, organisation of one-day Users Training Courses in operation and maintenance of biogas plants, organisation of practical training for village masons and technicians in the construction of biogas plants, and provision of turn-key job fee at the rate of Rs. 300 per plant for construction on turn-key basis with a minimum of two years' warranty period. Higher repair charges are also being given on case by case basis.

(e) To further minimise the extent of non-functional plants, Government has taken various measures, such as continuous and vigorous monitoring of biogas plants through State Government nodal agencies, independent evaluation studies, establishment of Regional Project Offices of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and monitoring cells in many States. Seven Regional Biogas Training and Development Centres have been established for providing technical and training support and financial assistance is given for creation of organisational infrastructure in the field specifically for biogas programme.

**Bonds for the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project**

972. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused permission to float bonds for the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such refusal; and

(c) whether the proposed decision will deprive the local industry from reaping any benefit from the Rs. 600 crore project as all the equipments will now be imported form U.S.S.R.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER, IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The present scheme of floating Bonds introduced by the Central Government is confined to Central Public Sector Undertakings, primarily in the infrastructure fields. The question of extending the facility to financially viable State Undertakings in similar fields will be decided by Government after sufficient experience has been gained in the operation of the scheme and in the light of the overall resources position of the Central Government in relation to its commitments.

(c) The question of import of equipment for the proposed Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project would arise only after the offers received for implementing the project have been assessed by Government and investment approval has been accorded to the project.

**Mangalore Refinery**

973. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of private sector companies which have been selected for Joint Sector Refinery at Mangalore; and

(b) the time by when work will commence on this refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) M/s. Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd. have been selected as the private sector co-promoter with whom Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has been asked to prepare a Detailed Project Report for the petrochemical refinery at Mangalore. They will also enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and the work on the DPR will commence after the M.O.U. is arrived at.

**Light Commercial Vehicle Industry**

974. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Light Commercial Vehicle Industry is facing a recession and if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to meet the situation;